

Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP) influenza immunization end of 2021 to 2022 season

Thank you to all the pharmacists who participated in the 2021 to 2022 Alberta influenza immunization program.

2021 to 2022 influenza season highlights:

- More than 1.19 million Albertans were immunized.
- Pharmacists immunized more than 897,557 Albertans.
- The Alberta influenza immunization rate is currently 27 per cent—an eight per cent decrease over the 2020 to 2021 season.
- 67.4 per cent of Albertans 65 years of age and older have received their influenza vaccines.
- Of note, the influenza immunization target for all Albertans is 35 per cent.

End date for the 2021 to 2022 influenza season

- The influenza immunization program ends on March 31, 2022.
- Children of five to nine years of age eligible for a second dose of influenza vaccine can receive it until April 30, 2022. Pharmacy wholesale distributors will not be distributing influenza vaccines after March 31, 2022. However, pharmacists can complete the second dose until April 30 if the influenza vaccine is available. If the vaccine is not available at your pharmacy, refer clients to another healthcare practitioner. Alberta Blue Cross will accept claims until April 30 for this age group.

Unused and expired provincially funded influenza vaccines

- All provincially funded influenza vaccines must be removed from cold chain storage for appropriate destruction as per your pharmacy's standard of practice (Standard 5.13) on May 1, 2022.
- All influenza vaccines leftover at the end of the season must be accounted for and reconciled in the Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) management system using
 - o category code "Wasted" and
 - o reason code "Waste/Influenza Season End".
- Pharmacy wholesalers cannot accept provincially funded influenza vaccine returns. You are responsible for the proper destruction of unused or expired vaccines. The cost of destruction will not be reimbursed.

AVI summary

This was the first influenza season in which pharmacies were required to reconcile influenza vaccine in AVI. Thank you for the efforts required to complete the tasks in AVI as this provided timely insights into the vaccine inventory throughout Alberta.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

